

home should not mean being without an education. Yet that is what homelessness means for far too many of our poor and runaway children and youth today.

Congress recognized the importance of educating homeless and runaway youth when it enacted in 1987 the McKinney Education program. But despite the progress made over the past decade, we know that homeless children continue to miss out on what often is the only source of stability and promise in their lives—school attendance.

That's why I introduced H.R. 623, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001, which was included in the No Child Left Behind Act that became law at the beginning of this year.

By incorporating the innovative provisions contained in my legislation, H.R. 1 strengthened the McKinney program, ensuring that a homeless or runaway child is immediately enrolled in school. That means no red tape, no waiting for paperwork, and no bureaucratic delays. A school liaison helps runaway or homeless youth make certain decisions about their education, and upon enrollment, ensures they have access to the special assistance and services available to runaway and homeless youth.

This is one small way that more is being done to help children who are runaways or homeless. There are many others—individuals and organizations—who are doing whatever they can to assist America's runaway youth by providing food, shelter, clothing, and counseling. Others are working with families to prevent a child from running away in the first place. And still others are intervening and advocating on behalf of children and giving them options other than running away.

One such organization is the National Runaway Switchboard, which provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth with their families, and to link young people to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running. I am compelled to call attention to this important resource because it originated in Chicago.

Founded by a group of Chicago agencies, the National Runaway Switchboard was established in 1971 to provide comprehensive crisis intervention services for young people in Chicago. It was conceived as a centralized organization with free, 24-hour services, expertise in all youth-related issues, and as an information clearinghouse. In 1974, it became a national resource, and now is the federally designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth. The Switchboard is still available 24 hours a day, and fields more than 100,000 calls each year from the nation's runaway and homeless youth.

The National Runaway Switchboard and the National Network for Youth have designated November as National Runaway Prevention Month. The purpose of this month is to call attention to the problem, its causes and impacts, and all those organizations and services that exist to help both runaways and their families.

It is fitting for Congress to support the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LES SCHWAB

## HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding business leader and gentleman from Oregon's Second Congressional District, Mr. Les Schwab. I am pleased to announce that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the company he founded, Les Schwab Tires.

In 1952, Les bought a small tire store in the city of Prineville, deep in the heart of Central Oregon, for \$3,500. From that simple investment, Les Schwab Tires has grown to become the nation's leading independent tire business with over 330 stores throughout the West. Today, there is hardly a town in Oregon that does not fall under the shadow of a Les Schwab Tires sign.

His innovative business programs inspire a fierce loyalty that few other companies can match. The tenets for achievement are the same for all of his 7,000 employees: start at the bottom, work hard, and never rest on your laurels. The many profit sharing programs he pioneered ensure all employees have a stake in the success or failure of a store. To this end, the company returns over forty-nine percent of each store's profits to its employees. As Les explained in his inspirational book, "Pride In Performance", this return investment is "unselfish for good reasons." It is his sincere wish to instill within his current and future employees a desire to succeed in business to last for many generations to come.

The same honesty and fairness that Les shows his employees is bestowed upon his customers as well. Customers know that Les is a man of his word. Westerners, especially Oregonians, appreciate his commitment to customer service and satisfaction, and have rewarded his efforts with 50 years of loyal business. Now, at 85 years of age, Les continues to lead by example. He comes to work daily at his headquarters in Prineville, right where it all started. Ultimately, it is Les' own straightforward leadership and no nonsense Oregon values that have made Les Schwab Tires an American success story.

Les is also known for his civic leadership. He gives back generously to the communities that made his company thrive. Les Schwab Tires sponsors numerous charitable events to support local food banks, youth shelters, and several different scholarship foundations. The state All-Star high school football game, the Les Schwab Bowl, benefits athletic programs for disadvantaged youth in the greater Portland area and provides free equipment and sportsmanship education for underprivileged youth in all Oregon high schools. Les is also the chief supporter of the Les Schwab Invitational, a four-day basketball tournament that showcases the top Oregon high school basketball teams and matches them against other outstanding teams from around the country. This event, now in its seventh year, expects to raise \$30,000 to help curb the dramatic cuts in the state's athletic programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this extraordinary man and great American, Mr. Les Schwab. I wish continued happiness for him and Dorothy, his

wife of 66 years. Personally, I would like to thank him for all the opportunities he has provided to the people of Prineville, the Second District, and all of Oregon.

## RECOGNIZING THE CONVOY OF HOPE IN SPRINGFIELD, MO

## HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Convoy of Hope being organized in Springfield, MO on October 26, National Make-A-Difference Day. Volunteers make a difference in the quality of a nation and how we treat the less fortunate. A great number of community services rely on volunteers. Volunteers come from all walks of life and often have the skills and experiences of a lifetime of work that make them invaluable resources and problem solvers.

On October 26, the Convoy of Hope will bring 1,000 volunteers together to honor 5,000 guests—the working poor and the needy. These guests will receive a hot lunch, medical and dental screenings at a health carnival, a KiddsZone carnival, free haircuts, services from state and local agencies, and job search activities.

This is an effort by dozens of local churches to reach out to the poor and needy and raise awareness of local needs in our communities. The goal is to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate and to share a message of spiritual faith and hope.

These churches in Springfield, Missouri share the same goal as the U.S. Congress. In the last five decades, Congress has created and expanded and re-created dozens of programs to help the less fortunate. In contrast, the churches and faith-based organizations of our nation have an even longer history and a greater number of success stories to tell about these compassionate endeavors. These organizations also seem to accomplish their goals more efficiently and with less cost than many programs created by the Congress.

The Convoy of Hope will touch the lives of thousands of volunteers and guests on October 26, 2002 and unite them in a meaningful expression meant to change lives not only for that day but for days to come. I wish them great success in this undertaking.

## IN MEMORY OF "SNOOKY" SALEH

## HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great friend and great American, Jameel Joseph "Snooky" Saleh, of Tyler, Texas, who leaves behind a powerful legacy of hard work, generosity, and dedication to his family, community and country. He was a friend to so many—and a special friend of mine.

Snooky passed away in August at the age of 78. The son of Lebanese immigrants, he attended Tyler Junior College and spent two years at Texas A&M before being called to